

## **CAP MR/DD Service Definition**

**Title:** Vehicle Adaptations

### **Service Definition:**

Vehicle Adaptations are provided only if the cost effectiveness of vehicle adaptations, relative to alternative transportation services is established in the person-centered Person centered plan. Vehicle adaptations are devices, controls, or services that enable individuals to increase their independence and/or physical safety. The repair, maintenance, installation, and training in the care and use of these items are included. Vehicle adaptations, repairs, and maintenance of equipment shall be performed by the adaptive equipment manufacturer's authorized dealer according to manufacturer's installation instructions, and National Mobility Equipment Dealers' Association, Society of Automotive Engineers, and National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration guidelines. When appropriate, waiver recipients are referred to Vocational Rehabilitation Services to acquire vehicle adaptation consultation services.

The following types of adaptations to the vehicles are allowed:

- Door handle replacements.
- Door modifications.
- Installation of a raised roof or related alterations to existing raised roof systems to improve head clearance.
- Lifting devices.
- Devices for securing wheelchairs or scooters.
- Devices for transporting wheelchairs or scooters.
- Adapted steering, acceleration, signaling, and braking devices only when recommended by a physician and a certified driving evaluator for people with disabilities, and when training in the installed device is provided by certified personnel.
- Seating modifications.
- Safety/security modifications, including power-operated door openers.
- Handrails and grab bars.
- Installation of wheelchair flooring to insure wheelchair securement.
- Lowering of the floor of the vehicle.

### **Service Limitation:**

Alterations to vehicles are limited to vehicles owned by the individual, or the individual's family. Excluded are vehicles owned by staff of licensed facilities, licensed and non-licensed Alternative Family Living homes and foster homes, including guardians in those settings.

The adaptations do not include the purchase price of the vehicle itself.

The cost of Vehicle Adaptations shall not exceed \$15,000 over the duration of the waiver (three years). It is the responsibility of the case manager to track the cost of Vehicle Adaptations billed and paid for during a plan year, in order not to exceed the total amount of \$15,000 over 3 years.

Costs that were not paid during one waiver year must be added to the cost summary for the next waiver year.

Recipients are referred to Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) when appropriate. VR has staff with expertise in assessing the needs of the person and making specific recommendations for the type of modification to meet the needs of the person with the vehicle. In the event that VR services are determined not to be an appropriate resource, the following process is utilized.

All vehicles must be evaluated by an adapted vehicle supplier with an emphasis on safety and “life expectancy” of the vehicle in relationship to the modifications. Both VR and dealers have staff to provide this type of assessment.

All equipment purchased through CAP-MR/DD funds will utilize a bid or competitive invoice process to insure the most efficient use of Medicaid funds.

All Vehicle Adaptations must meet applicable standards and safety codes.

Vehicle modifications do not cover the cost of the vehicle to be modified or the cost of rental of vehicles with adaptations on them. A family may choose to purchase a vehicle (new or used) that already has modifications on it. In such cases the process for approval of the adaptation remains the same. The price of the used lift on the used vehicle must be assessed and the current value may be approved. In such instances, the individual/family may not take possession of the lift prior to approval.

### **Documentation**

1. Recommended equipment or modification shall be justified by an assessment by a Physical Therapist/Occupational Therapist specializing in vehicle modifications, or a Rehabilitation Engineer or Vehicle Adaptation Specialist, and accompanied by a physician’s signature certifying medical necessity for the person. All vehicles must be evaluated by an adapted vehicle supplier with an emphasis on the safety and “life expectancy” of the vehicle in relationship to the modifications. These assessments shall contain information regarding the rationale for selected modification, individual pre-driving assessment - if the CAP-MR/DD service recipient will be driving the vehicle, condition of the vehicle to be modified, insurance on the vehicle to be modified, and training plan for the use of the prescribed modification.
2. Recipients are often referred to the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation [VR] when appropriate. VR has staff with expertise in assessing the needs of the person and making specific recommendations for the type of modifications that will meet the needs of the person with the vehicle.
3. Documentation regarding each of the requirements specified above must be submitted in writing with the Plan of Care in order to obtain approval of the requested Vehicle Adaptations.
4. All Vehicle Adaptations must meet applicable standards and safety codes.

**Note:** For recipients under the age of 21, additional products, services, or procedures may be requested even if they do not appear in the N.C. State Plan or when coverage is limited to those over 21 years of age. Service limitations on scope, amount, or frequency described in the coverage policy may not apply if the product, service, or procedure is medically necessary.